

This is something we should have done a generation ago when we could have saved untold billions of dollars and no telling how many lives. But we can do it now, and we have to do it. And I would just implore you to work with us, make sure we don't make any mistakes we can possibly avoid, but give the Members of

Congress from your State the courage to face this problem that our Nation has neglected for too long.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:04 p.m. at the El Pueblo Health Services Clinic.

## Statement on Signing the Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act of 1993

*December 3, 1993*

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 1670, the "Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act of 1993."

The flooding that occurred in the Midwest this past summer was unprecedented in our history in scope, magnitude, and duration. The sheer number of victims, flooded homes, farms, and businesses, and the extent of damage to public facilities called for an unprecedented response from the nine affected States, local governments, volunteers, and the Federal Government—and respond they did.

Now that most of the flood waters have receded, it is time to reestablish lives disrupted by the weeks and months of rain and flooding and to rebuild property damaged by those waters. For many, rebuilding in the same place will be out of the question. And for many who want to move, relocating off the flood plain may not be possible without help.

With this legislation, my Administration and the Congress have taken an important step toward providing the help needed. This Act authorizes a greater Federal contribution toward acquiring and relocating structures damaged by floods than was available before. It provides higher ceilings on the amounts of Federal disaster funds that can be available to help flood

victims move out of harm's way. And in assisting in the relocation of homes and other structures, it provides greater assurance than perhaps any other measure that the people helped will not have to suffer such damage and disruption from flooding again. It will be less costly to help the flood victims move now and reestablish their lives than to bear the expense of repeated flooding.

I congratulate and thank the many Members of the House and Senate in both parties who worked so diligently to pass this legislation. I especially commend the leadership of Representatives Volkmer and Gephardt, Senators Harkin and Danforth, and other Members of the congressional delegations of the Midwestern States, as well as the prompt action of the leaders of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
December 3, 1993.

NOTE: S. 1670, approved December 3, was assigned Public Law No. 103-181.

## Statement on the Technology Reinvestment Project

*December 3, 1993*

To win in the new global economy and safeguard our national security, America must invest in new technologies with both commercial and

military applications. This program will help give us the edge that will keep America strong and create new jobs at the same time.

This program is designed to keep American manufacturing workers, from the engineers to the machine operators, at the top of their fields. Efficient, high-quality production using a skilled, well-equipped work force will put American products on shelves throughout the world and

put Americans to work in high-paying jobs here at home.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White House announcement of the third group of awards in the technology reinvestment project.

### Appointment for Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrators *December 3, 1993*

The President today approved John H. Hankinson, Jr., as Regional Administrator, Region IV, and Jane N. Saginaw as Regional Administrator, Region VI, at the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I am pleased today to name these two hard-working individuals to our team at EPA," the President said.

NOTE: Biographies of the appointees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### Nomination for National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator *December 3, 1993*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Ricardo Martinez, M.D., to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with the Department of Transportation.

"Ricardo Martinez has dedicated his career to improving trauma care and curtailing car accident deaths," the President said. "As a firsthand witness to the tragedy accidents can inflict on

individuals, families, and communities, he will work hard to ensure the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration uses all of its resources to make our roads safer."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### Remarks at the "Celebration '94" Reception in Albuquerque, New Mexico *December 3, 1993*

*The President.* You know, when Bruce said to Alice, "Just give the President whatever it is you have," I said, "Heck, Bruce, I want the ranch." [Laughter] I like the Stetson, but I mean, if I really get a choice—[Laughter]

Ladies and gentlemen, I am glad to be here. Glad to be back in New Mexico. How many of you were here—I just got off the phone with Hillary. She was working in New Hampshire yesterday, so she's home tonight. I just

got off the phone with her. How many of you were here when we were here the night of the election—all night—remember that? The press has a way of finding out everything about you if you become President. President Reagan loved jelly beans, and President Bush didn't like broccoli and last week the Wall Street Journal reported our dark secret that Hillary and I are addicted to salsa. [Laughter] And it all happened because of you, because we stayed up all night